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Department of State

TELEGRAM

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INFO OCT 01,EA 10,SFW 02,E 15,INT 06,COM 08,MSC 01,IO 13,CIAE 00,

INR 07,NSAE 00,RSC 01,RSR 01,/068 W

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R 010531Z AUG 69
FM AMEMBASSY CANBERRA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4192
CINCPAC

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SUBJ: TERRITORIAL SEA

REF: STATE 126371

1. EMBASSY HAS DISCUSSED QUESTION BASELINES DESCRIBED REFTTEL WITH BRAY (LEGAL BRANCH, DEPT EXTERNAL AFFAIRS) AND SETTER (DIRECTOR, FISHERIES). INTENTION GOA DRAW STRAIGHT BASELINES ACROSS BODIES DESCRIBED REFTTEL AND EXMOUTH GULF, WESTERN AUSTRALIA, ANNOUNCED ATTORNEY GENERAL BOWEN COMMONWEALTH PARLIAMENT OCT 31, 1967. DECISION BASED ON GOA CONTENTION BODIES QUOTE HISTORIC BAYS UNQUOTE AND ON TRADITIONAL TREATMENT AS QUOTE INTERNAL WATERS UNQUOTE.

2. ACCORDING ABOVE OFFICIALS, NO FORMAL STATUTES OR DECREES ISSUED RE SUBJECT. MAPS HAVE BEEN REDRAWN CLOSING ABOVE WATERS, BUT NOT YET PUBLISHED BECAUSE OF QUOTE UNRESOLVED LEGAL TECHNICALITIES UNQUOTE WHICH SETTER STATES NOW ASSOCIATED CLOSURE SUBJECT WATERS. COPY BOWEN STATEMENT BEING AIRPOUCHED. SEE ENCLOSURE CANBERRA A-209 FOR DETAILED LEGAL DISCUSSION AUSTRALIAN INTERPRETATION TERRITORIAL SEAS.

3. SETTER ADVISED EMBASSY OFFICER ON CONFIDENTIAL BASIS GOA EMBASSY WASHINGTON BEING INSTRUCTED TODAY ALERT DEPT STATE GOA DESIRE REOPEN LAST YEAR'S TALKS CONCERNING TERRITORIAL SEA WITH SPECIAL REFERENCE GULF CARPENTARIA. EMBASSY UNABLE OBTAIN

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SPECIFICS GOA INTENTIONS. DETAILED INSTRUCTIONS GOA EMBASSY
WASHINGTON APPARENTLY TO BE TRANSMITTED EARLY NEXT WEEK.
CRONK

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